

# Mentorship Programme

## Information Pack 2026/27

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For an audio version of this document,  
please click [here](#).

# Welcome

**Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, with a spirit of creative innovation and artistic collaboration at its heart. A key mission is to fuel the evolution of dance by providing artists with opportunities to experiment, explore, and develop their practice. In 2023, we launched our Artist Development Programme, consisting of six offerings, all open or recruited by open call, designed to support the artistic community through non-outcome driven initiatives. Following its first three years, we are re-opening applications for three of our programmes and continuing the rolling registration for two others. We have also developed new programmes that support developing choreographers to present work with us. You can read about the full programme online at:**

**<https://www.sadlerswells.com/for-artists/artist-development/>**

This Mentorship Programme will support eight choreographers and dance makers to have six bi-monthly one-hour online mentoring sessions with an established choreographer from the Sadler's Wells network. This mentorship will last for a year-long period focussing on a specific creative question, idea, or provocation to support the mentee's professional development.

This programme welcomes artists and creatives working in dance in all its forms, regardless of pathway, training, or background. If you are interested in receiving support from a mentor to explore a specific line of enquiry related to your practice, this is for you.

# The Offer

## What is it?

This programme pairs an established choreographer from Sadler's Wells' network as a mentor with a choreographer or dance maker as a mentee. The mentee will receive six bi-monthly one-hour online sessions across a year-long period.

In addition, to make the session a success for those with supplementary needs, we can offer a bespoke package of access support to suit your requirements.

Mentees will be selected by open call where they will share a specific creative question, idea, or provocation that they would like input and support to explore with a mentor. The mentors have been selected by the Artist Development team at Sadler's Wells.

The mentors that are confirmed for the programme are:

- **Ben Duke**

Website: <https://www.lostdogdance.co.uk/team/benduke>

- **Benji Reid**

Website: <https://www.benjireid.com/about>

- **Dickson Mbi**

Website: <https://dicksonmbi.com/about/dickson-mbi/>

- **Holly Blakey**

Website: <https://www.hollyblakey.co.uk/>

- **Jade Hackett**

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jade.hackett/>

- **Raquel Meseguer**

Website:

<https://www.lostdogdance.co.uk/team/raquelmesequerzafe>

- **Rosie Heafford**

Website:

<https://www.secondhanddance.co.uk/about-us/people>

- **Russell Maliphant**

Website:

<https://www.russellmaliphantdancecompany.com/russell-maliphant>

# Who is it for?

We would like to support choreographers and dance makers that:

- **Are interested in developing their practice and have a specific question, idea, or provocation in mind.**
- **Have a choreographic practice rooted in dance in any form.**
- **Are at any stage in their career.**
- **Are over the age of 18 and not in formal education or training.**
- **Are residents of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands).**

We understand that everybody's journey in choreography and dance making is different, so we don't want to define a specific moment in someone's career or suggest a pathway. We ask that you consider the offer and the expertise of the mentors to identify if they would be a good fit for you.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to support:

- **Individuals who are currently part of a Sadler's Wells programme such as Young Associates or the Rose Choreographic School**

- **Individuals who are currently in formal education or training.**
- **Those who reside outside of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (such as Republic of Ireland or other EU countries).**

This is a space for the artistic community and is not a place to propose projects to Sadler's Wells for commissioning or programming.

If you are unsure if this programme is for you and would like to talk to someone, please contact our team. You'll find contact details at the end of this pack.

# When is it?

The offer is for bi-monthly one-hour remote sessions over the course of a year. The exact scheduling of your mentorship should be agreed mutually between each mentee and your mentor.

# Expression of Interest

To apply, please complete an **Expression of Interest Form** on our website:

**<https://www.sadlerswells.com/for-artists/artist-development/mentorship-programme-form/>**

In this form, we ask:

- 1. Please tell us about your creative practice.**
- 2. What is your creative question or line of enquiry that you would like to work on with a mentor?**
- 3. Why would you benefit from this Mentorship Programme at this moment in time?**

You can submit your responses to the questions above in either of the following formats:

- Written statements each with a word count of up to 250 words**
- Audio or video recordings each with a duration of 2-3 minutes**

It's best that you prepare your responses before you click through to complete the form. Once you have prepared your responses, the form should take no more than 10-minutes to complete. We are mindful of the unpaid labour undertaken for open calls and as such invite you to keep your response to the approximate length requested.

This open call launches on **Wednesday 15 April** and you have until **Sunday 10 May at midnight** to apply. You will receive an automatic response when your expression of interest has been received, if you don't receive an e-mail within 24 hours, please contact us via the details at the end of this pack.

# Selection Process

This programme will be selected by:

- **Rob Jones, Associate Artistic Director at Sadler's Wells**
- **Valentina Vela, Senior Producer at Sadler's Wells**

Successful expressions of interest will describe a tangible line of enquiry and highlight the lasting impact a year-long mentorship like this would have on your practice.

We will consider your preferred mentors during the selection process but cannot guarantee you will be paired with one of your selections. In your application, please make sure your creative question or line of enquiry demonstrates your knowledge of your preferred mentors' practice and how they would be best suited to support your development.

We are committed to foregrounding under-represented voices and as such, we aim to offer at least six of the eight mentorships to:

- **Artists from systemically marginalised groups including, and not limited to, disabled artist, artists from the global majority and LGBTQIA+.**
- **Artists that identify as female or non-binary.**

The timeline for this initiative is as follows:

**Wednesday 15 April**

**Open call launches for expressions of interest**

**Sunday 10 May**

**Deadline for expressions of interest (midnight)**

**Friday 14 August**

**Responses sent to all who submitted  
an expression of interest**

We commit to responding to all who submit an expression of interest by the date above. Should for any reason there be a change to the timeline, we will write to update you.

We anticipate this will be a competitive programme and are regretful that we will receive many more expressions of interest than mentorships we are able to offer. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer feedback.

# Access Requirements

We are committed to being open and inclusive and hope the process is accessible to all but realise that some may still encounter barriers in accessing this offer.

If this resonates with you, please get in touch by phone, text, or e-mail to let us know what additional support you require to make your expression of interest possible. Regrettably, we cannot give advice on your response itself as we will remain impartial in the process.

You can also listen to an audio version of this pack:

<https://www.sadlerswells.com/for-artists/artist-development/mentorship-programme/audio/>

There is a read aloud function available in the PDF, which is available to download at:

<https://www.sadlerswells.com/for-artists/artist-development/mentorship-programme/>

**Contact:**

**Valentina Vela, Senior Producer,**

**Artist Development & Programming**

**E-Mail: [Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com](mailto:Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com)**

**Phone or Text: +44 (0) 7872 506 803**

Valentina is available from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We can offer additional access support to help with overcoming barriers that would usually make your participation in this kind of initiative prohibitive or challenging.

If you are successful, we will discuss these requirements with you and create a bespoke package of access support to suit your needs.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can I apply to work with a specific mentor?**

As part of the expression of interest, we will ask you if you could choose, who your top three mentors would be. We will try to take this into consideration however, we cannot guarantee that you will be paired with any of your choices.

## **What are the financial conditions?**

You are not paid for your time as a mentee so please only apply if you are able to dedicate time to this programme. The commitment is six hours over a year-long period. Sadler's Wells will pay the mentors for their time directly.

## **Is there any kind of public-facing outcome?**

No, we do not expect you to share the outcome of this programme publicly, but the impact of the mentorship will be monitored by Sadler's Wells for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

## **Can I apply if I am already working with Sadler's Wells?**

If you are already part of a Sadler's Wells programme like Young Associates or The Rose choreographic school, you can't apply to this programme.

## **Is there access support to help me apply?**

Yes, the materials are available in large-print plain text and audio. If you need further assistance with access, including our support with the understanding of terms used in this document, we can help. Please use the contact details at the end of this pack.

### **Are there age restrictions for this programme?**

You must be aged 18 or over to apply. We acknowledge that everyone's journey is different, therefore there are no specific age specifications.

### **Can I apply if I live outside of the United Kingdom?**

No, this offer is only available to artists with permanent residence in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

### **I am having trouble with the form; please can you help?**

If you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us using the details at the end of this pack.

# Contact

If there is other information that you need or questions you would like to ask, please get in touch with **Valentina Vela, Senior Producer** by e-mail at [Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com](mailto:Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com). You can also call or text Valentina on **07872 506 803** from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

Read more about the **Artist Development Programme** online at: <https://www.sadlerswells.com/for-artists/artist-development/>